



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND  
FPO AE 09501-6008

IN REPLY TO:  
5800  
Ser 00/1179  
7 Nov 00

From: Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command  
To: Captain [REDACTED] Jr., U.S. Navy,

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACTIONS OF USS COLE  
(DDG-67) IN PREPARING FOR AND UNDERTAKING A BRIEF STOP  
FOR FUEL AT BANDAR AT TAWAHI (ADEN HARBOR) ADEN, YEMEN  
ON OR ABOUT 12 OCTOBER 2000

Ref: (a) COMUSNAVCENT ltr 5800, Ser 00/1082 of 14 Oct 00  
(b) SECDEF Apt ltr of 24 Oct 2000  
(c) COMUSNAVENT mtg w/OSD Commission on 29 Oct 00  
(d) JAG Manual

1. On 12 October 2000, an attack against USS COLE (DDG-67) resulted in substantial damage to the ship, and serious loss of life and injury to the crew. Reference (a) appointed you to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the actions of USS COLE (DDG-67) in preparing for and undertaking a Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) at Aden Harbor, Yemen, on the day of the attack. Reference (b) appointed Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN and General William W. Crouch, USA (Ret) to review the incident "in light of applicable Department of Defense policies and procedures, in order to assess the lessons to be learned from this tragedy." Additionally, the President has directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to investigate the incident.

2. At the time of your appointment it was recognized that higher authority might appoint other investigative bodies, and that your investigation might become part of another investigation. Reference (c) is a meeting between myself, members of my staff, and the OSD Commission. During this meeting the Commission articulated the focus on their review. Additionally, it was determined that your inquiry would not become part of another investigation and that you should continue your investigation as an independent matter.

3. You are directed to cover the following specific issues as part of your inquiry:

Encl (5)  
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a. Force Protection posture of the USS COLE, to include submission and approval of the force protection plan, any force protections matters waived or not implemented, and crew awareness;

b. Relationship between the CTF-50 and USS COLE, to include guidance from the battlegroup and analysis of the approval process for the force protection plan;

c. Force Protection training for USS COLE, to include pre-deployment training and internal ship training;

d. For each Sailor killed or wounded, the casualty response, brief chronology of medical care and circumstances of injury or death;

4. Reference (a) directed you to report your findings of fact, opinions and recommendations by 13 November 2000. You may, in accordance with reference (d), request an extension of time to complete your report.

  
C. W. MOORE, JR.

Encl (5)  
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